Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SINGAP 03300 221022Z

13

ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15

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CONFIDENTIAL SINGAPORE 3300

E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: KOREA AT 28TH UNGA

REF: STATE 162623

1. IN SEPARATE CALLS AT FOREIGN MINISTRY AUGUST 21 AND 22, I REVIEWED SUBSTANCE OF REFTEL WITH FOREIGN MINISTER RAJARATNAM AND PERMSEC BOGAARS AND REQUESTED GOS SUPPORT FOR POSITIONS SUMMARIZED PARA 11 REFTEL. BOTH RAJARATNAM AND BOGAARS SAID THEY HAD NO DIFFICULTY WITH OUR POSITION ON UNCURK TERMINATION IN NON-PREJUDICIAL MANNER. THEY ALSO EXPRESSED SUPPORT FOR ROK PROPOSAL OF DUAL UN MEMBER-SHIP AS A REALISTIC APPROACH IN PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES. BOGAARS POINTED OUT, HOWEVER, THAT GOS HAD CAREFULLY AVOIDED GETTING CAUGHT IN MIDDLE ON DIVIDED-COUNTRY ISSUES, PREFERRING TO LET PARTIES DIRECTLY INVOLVED SOLVE THEIR OWN PROBLEMS WITHOUT OUTSIDE INTERFERENCE. IT WAS CLEAR FROM BOTH CONVERSATIONS THAT WHILE GOS WOULD WELCOME DUAL MEMBERSHIP, THEY DO NOT INTEND TAKE ACTIVE PART IN DEBATE ON SUBJECT AND WOULD ABSTAIN IN VOTE IF NORTH AND SOUTH CONTINUE TO DISAGREE.

2. RE UNC, RAJARATNAM SAID HE THOUGHT IT WOULD BE INCONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 SINGAP 03300 221022Z

APPROPRIATE AND ILLOGICAL FOR UNGA TO RECOMMEND DISSOLUTION

OF UNC SINCE IT WOULD BE CONTRADICTORY TO WHAT HAD BEEN DECIDED BY UN YEARS AGO. SINCE SITUATION IN KOREA HAS NOT BASICALLY CHANGED, A MOVE TO REMOVE UNC WOULD IN EFFECT BE AN ADMISSION UN HAD MADE A MISTAKE. AN ORGANIZATION LIKE THE UN, HE SAID, SHOULD NOT ENGAGE IN SUCH SELF-CRITICISM.

SINCE UNC IS LEGALLY IN SOUTH KOREA, QUESTION WHETHER UNC SHOULD REMAIN WAS IN HIS VIEW UP TO SOUTH KOREANS, NOT THE UN. HE SAID GOS FAVORED RETENTION OF US FORCES IN KOREA, ALTHOUGH THEY DO NOT SAY SO PUBLICLY. BOGAARS SAID THAT SINCE NORTH AND SOUTH DIFFER ON UNC PRESENCE, GOS WOULD ABSTAIN ON ANY VOTE AND REFRAIN FROM DEBATE ON ISSUE. FURTHER, MATTER WAS MORE PROPERLY ONE FOR SECURITY COUNCIL TO DEBATE.

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